

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 USIE-00 /044 W
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O R 181935Z JUN 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8340

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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OINC FOR WAMPLER

S/NM/FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

DEA FOR ACTING ADMINISTRATOR DOGIN

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, MXO

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GOM ON 1975-1976 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

REF MEXICO 5277

SUMMARY: ON JUNE 16, AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL, US REPS MET ONCE AGAIN WITH THEIR MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS. ON USG SIDE WERE BERNAL, HALL (OINC); SCHLESINGER, GREEN, BACI (DEA WASHINGTON; HEATH, RIZZO (DEA MEXICO); ELDER (NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT); AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ALBERTI. GOM SIDE WAS CHAIRED BY AG'S CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, LIC. MANCERA; ALSO PRESENT WERE LIC. CARCAMO (NORTHWEST ZONE COORDINATOR); LIC. LOPEZ (CHIEF, OFFICE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL; CAPT. VICEZ (CHIEF AEROSERVICES); LT. PLATA (CHIEF, MAINTENANCE OFFICER); ING. JIMENEZ (TELECOMM CHIEF); ING. QUINONES (CHIEFS, MOPS; ING. BACA AND ING. PUIG (CETERNAL, GOM MAPPING AGENCY); AND ING. ROMERO (AG'S BASE COORDINATOR). MANCERA QUICKLY DIVIDED GROUP INTO THREE

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TASK FORCES TO CONSIDER OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS, REMOTE

AND OTHER SENSORS, AND MAINTENANCE. AFTER ONE HOUR, ALL HANDS REASSEMBLED TO COMPARE NOTES AND TO REVIEW THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL). IN GENERAL, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO ALL POINTS IN CITED MEMORANDUM, WITH FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS, KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS IN MEMORANDUM. END SUMMARY.

1. COMPLETE AGREEMENT.

2. COMPLETE AGREEMENT. LENGTHY DISCUSSION PRODUCED OPINION THAT SO-CALLED SOUTHERN ZONE WOULD INCLUDE STATES OF JALISCO, NAYARIT, COLIMA, MICHOACAN, GUERRERO AND OAXACA. EMPHASIS WOULD OF COURSE BE ON POPPY PRODUCING CENTER, PARTICULARLY IN GUERRERO AND MICHOACAN; BUT AFTER POPPY SEASON ATTENTION COULD BE DEVOTED TO MARIJUANA PRODUCTION IN OAXACA. MAIN BASE WOULD BE LOCATED AT CHILPANCINGO, GUERRERO, WITH AUXILLIARY BASES PROBABLY AT GUADALAJARA, JALISCO; URUAPAN, MICHOACAN; AND ALTAMIROANO OR ATOYAC, GUERRERO.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT ONE BELL 212 HELICOPTER CAN SUPPORT 10 COLUMNS OF TROOPS (APPROXIMATELY 110 MEN). US REPS INFORMED MEXICANS THERE WOULD BE A TOTAL OF 13 BELL 212'S AVAILABLE BY THE BEGINNING OF THE DECEMBER CAMPAIGN. ALL AGREED BEST ALLOCATION WOULD BE EIGHT 212'S IN THE NORTHWEST, FOUR IN THE SOUTH (ONE AT EACH BASE MENTIONED ABOVE), PLUS ONE SPARE. REALIZING THAT EVEN THIS WOULD NOT GIVE GOM FULL HELICOPTER SUPPORT NEEDED, US REPS PROMISED TO DO THEIR BEST TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS BEYOND THE 13 MINIMUM, BY START OF CAMPAIGN, OR BY FIRST QUARTER OF 1976 AT LATEST. (SEE COMMENT BELOW).

4. MEX REPS SAID THE COULD NOT AT THEIR LEVEL GIVE US A COMMITMENT ON THE NUMBERS OF MEXICAN ARMY TROOPS TO BE EMPLOYED. LIC. MANCERA ASSURED US, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AT THIS LEVEL HAD ASSURANCES OF THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE THAT THE TROOP REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE MET. AS NOTED ABOVE, THERE WAS AGREEMENT (BY LIC. CARCAMO, ALSO) THAT ONE BELL 212 COULD SUPPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TEN TROOP COLUMNS. MEX REPS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING THAT OPTIMUM NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE BY START OF FORTHCOMING CAMPAIGN; THEY THEREFORE RESOLVED TO PLAN THE CAMPAIGN BASED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF 13 BELL 212'S.

5. ALL AGREED THAT POPPY AND MARIJUANA ERADICATION IS ESSENTIALLY A YEAR-ROUND OPERATION, WITH INTENSIFIED

PHASE VARYING WITH CLIMATIC ZONES AND TARGETED CROP. MEX REPS CONFIRMED THEY CANNOT ESTIMATE NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPPY FIELDS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. NOR CAN THEY ESTIMATE SURFACE AREA EVEN IN NORTH TO BE DESTROYED IN NEXT CAMPAIGN; BUT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY THEY AGREED ON AN ARBITRARY FIGURE OF 13,000 FIELDS IN THE NORTHWEST. DECEMBER 15 HAS BEEN SELECTED BY DEPUTY AG AS STARTING DATE IN NORTHWEST (MANCERA ASSURED US TRADITIONAL DECEMBER VACATIONS WOULD BE CUT TO BONE AND NOT ALLOWED TO CONFLICT.) STARTING DATE IN SOUTH MAY BE SAME OR MAY VARY SOMEWHAT, DEPENDING ON RESULTS OF PRELIMINARY EXPLORATION. AS ALREADY NOTED, CHILPANCINGO WILL BE SOUTHERN BASE; CULIACAN WILL REMAIN CENTRAL BASE IN NORTH.

6. FULL AGREEMENT, AS EVIDENCED AND IMPLEMENTED BY DEPUTY AG'S DECISION TO SEPARATE COMMITTEE INTO WORKING GROUPS. IN FACT, COUNTERPART CONSULTATIONS ALREADY WERE TAKING PLACE ON AVIATION OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, REMOTE SENSING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. NOW ONGOING DISCUSSIONS WILL ALSO BE HELD ON MANPOWER AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, AS WELL AS COASTAL AND PORT INTERDICTION TECHNIQUES.

7. LIC. MANCERA AGREED TO GIVE CULIACAN FACILITY PRIORITY, AND SAID HE HAD ALREADY ASKED CAPFCE (GOM SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AGENCY) TO DEVELOP PRE-PROJECT STUDY WITH COST ESTIMATE SOONEST. MUTUAL AGREEMENT THAT QUARTERS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR OPERATIONS AND TELECOM; WHILE MOPS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE FROM VANS, FUTURE PLANNING MAY ALLOW FOR PERMANENT INSTALLATIONS OF MOPS SYSTEM.

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8. NEED FOR PRE-DETERMINED OPERATIONAL PLAN WAS ACCEPTED. RUDY HALL PROPOSED SAMPLE PLAN BASED ON TWIN PRINCIPLES OF DIVIDING EACH BASE ZONE INTO AREAS, PLUS ROTATION OF TROOPS BETWEEN FIELD AND BASE. APPARENTLY PLEASED BY RECOGNITION GIVEN SOME OF HIS IDEAS, LIC. CARCAMO AGREED TO THIS CONCEPT AND SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT DETAILED PLAN LATER. THERE WILL BE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS WITH SELECTED OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL.

9. DEPUTY AG AND LIC. MANCERA REITERATED THEY HAVE A MANDATE FROM THE AG TO PROVIDE ALL ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL NEEDED TO CONFORM TO EXPANDED AREA OF ERADICATION AND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED. THEY (VIDEZ INCLUDED) WILL BEGIN RECRUITMENT IMMEDIATELY AND DO NOT FORESEE REAL PROBLEM. VIDEZ ENTERED REQUEST FOR U.S.

HELICOPTER PILOT/INSTRUCTOR.

10. COMPLETE AGREEMENT. DEPUTY AG HAS SAID TECHNICIAN RECRUITMENT TO BEGIN JUNE 17. VIDEZ DOES NOT SEE PROVISION OF PILOTS FOR AEROCOMMANDER AS DIFFICULTY, AS LONG AS HIS MULTI-ENGINE PILOTS CAN RECEIVE TRANSITION TRAINING AT FACTORY.

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INRE-00 NSCE-00 AID-05 L-03 /047 W

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11. AG HAS ALREADY GIVEN ORDERS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HANGAR, NOT LATER THAN JUNE 23

12. MEX REPS SAID DELAY IN DESIGNATING COUNTERPARTS WAS DUE TO PRESENT DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNICIANS AND TO PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING COURSES. THEY NOW ARE COMMITTED TO IDENTIFYING AND ASSIGNING PERMANENT TECHNICAL COUNTERPARTS WITHIN 10 TO 15 DAYS.

13. COMPLETE AGREEMENT. AG HAS GIVEN ING. JIMENEZ AUTHORITY TO PLAN AND OPERATE THE NECESSARY TELECOMM NETS IN NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST ZONES. GOM WILL OBTAIN AND TRAIN ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED (JIMENEZ THINKS THEY WILL NEED SOME 10 OR 12 TECHNICIANS TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE, IN ADDITION TO THOSE AVAILABLE FROM PRIVATE SECTOR). LEE AND JIMENEZ LEAVE NEXT WEEK FOR A STUDY TOUR OF THE SOUTHWEST ZONE.

14. AGREEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT OF NEW SYSTEM, TO BE OUTLINED IN SEPTTEL. FIRST STEPS OF CORRECTIVE MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN DURING PERIOD OF DISCUSSIONS. MANCERA HAS APPOINTED FULL TIME ADMIN CLERK TO HANDLE ALL CUSTOMS MATTERS.

15. DEA/MEXICO WILL CONDUCT FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARCAMO. MEX REPS EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR VANS AND OTHER ROADBLOCK EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS REFLECTORS, LIGHTS, ARMORED VESTS, ETC.

16. STAN GREEN BRIEFED MEX REPS MORNING OF JUNE 16 ON POSSIBLE USES OF REMOTE SENSING (ACUSTIC, MAGNETIC AND SEISMIC) TO MONITOR CLANDESTINE AIRSTRIPS AND BACK ROADS. PROPOSAL MADE TO INSTALL SENSOR SYSTEM ON PILOT BASIS IN SELECTED AREA CONTAINING 6-12 AIRSTRIPS. NO TIME COMMITMENT.

17. HEATH AND CARCAMO WILL HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THIS TOPIC.

18. COMMENT: GIVEN ABOVE GOM PLANS AND COMMITMENTS FOR THE NEXT CAMPAIGN, WE BELIEVE IT MOST DESIRABLE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT AT THE EARLIEST DATE TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL FOUR BELL 212 HELICOPTERS. MEXICANS POINT OUT, AND WE AGREE, THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF EIGHT BELL 212S TO THE NORTHWEST AND FOUR TO THE SOUTH (PLUS ONE SPARE, FOR TOTAL OF 13) MEANS EFFECTIVE AVAILABILITY OF PERHAPS SIX IN NORTH AND THREE IN SOUTH. THIS APPEARS INSUFFICIENT TO DO A THOROUGH ERADICATION JOB IN TIME TO PREVENT HARVESTING OF CROP. WE THEREFORE URGE USG COMMITMENT TO, AND PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL FOUR HELICOPTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY IN TIME FOR ALL OR MOST OF NEXT CAMPAIGN. JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, CROP DESTRUCTION, MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO05333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750212-1051
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750639/aaaabixt.tel
Line Count: 263
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 5277
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH GOM ON 1975-1976 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN
TAGS: SNAR, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006